

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :

Asger GEPPEL *et al.*

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Serial No.: To be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: PORPHYRIN CONTAINING LACTIC ACID BACTERIAL  
CELLS AND USE THEREOFPRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend  
the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 2, please insert:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application, Serial No.  
09/488,644, filed January 21, 2000, and a continuation of international application,  
PCT/DK01/00036, filed January 18, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

13. A starter culture composition comprising the culturally modified lactic acid  
bacterial cell [of any of] claim[s] 1[-12].

18. A method of reducing the oxygen content in a food or feed product or in a food  
or feed product starting material comprising adding to the product or to the starting  
material an effective amount of the culturally modified lactic acid bacterial cells according  
to [any of] claim[s] 1[-12 or the starter culture composition according to any of claims 13-  
17].